

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
JUNE 20, 2003

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, June 20, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members Present: Major General Denver Brackeen, Mrs. Sara Fox, Ms. Veldore Young, Mr. Napoleon Moore, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, and Mr. Lawrence Warren.

Members Absent: Mr. Jimmy Murphy, Ms. Patricia Randall, Mr. George Walker, and Mrs. Brenda Yonge.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Mrs. Deborah Gilbert, Mr. Rodney Hodges, Mr. Dexter Holloway, Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Mrs. Eloise Richardson, Mr. Jim Southward, Mrs. Denise Walley, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Ms. Frankie White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Clyde Muse – Hinds Community College, Ms. Jerry McClendon - Mississippi State Department of Education, Dr. Bill Smith – Institutions of Higher Learning and Mr. Andy Kanengiser – The Clarion Ledger.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Sara Fox called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. All guests present introduced themselves.

PRELIMINARIES

Mrs. Fox gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of May 15-16, 2003, Regular Meetings

Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Ms. Veldore Young, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 15-16, 2003, regular meetings.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher asked Dr. Randall Bradberry to give the Board a report on recent legislation related to open meetings. Dr. Bradberry distributed information on House Bill 583 and briefly covered amendments that pertain to open meetings with the Board (Exhibit A).

Dr. Stonecypher distributed a copy of his calendar for June and July to the Board for their information.

REPORTS/ACTION

MACJC Report

Dr. Clyde Muse expressed his opinion related to the challenges that community and junior colleges face in delivering quality workforce training programs in the area of advanced skills training. He stated that the presidents have agreed to work with the Mississippi Technology Alliance to secure additional funding.

Dr. Muse expressed appreciation to SBCJC Associate Executive Director for Accountability and Support Services, Dr. Evelyn Webb, for her work with the Teacher Preparation Initiative developed to help increase the number of qualified teachers in K-12 schools. He also updated the Board on the Mississippi Community College Foundation's program that provides an alternate path for certification for teachers.

Dr. Muse gave a report on a working group established by Representative Billy McCoy, made up of individuals representing universities, community colleges, public schools, and the private sector. The group is charged with researching ways that education might be used to enhance economic development in the state.

The Association received a report on the Tobacco Quit Program that is working with students who want to quit smoking by providing stop-smoking aids and counseling.

The MACJC received a report on homeland security training. Meridian Community College has a program in place and will work with the other colleges to help provide this training in all areas of the state.

Dr. Muse stated that the MACJC had received approval of their request to the Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) for a substantive change related to the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MVSCC).

During the MACJC Legislative Planning Workshop held in Hattiesburg in June, the Association developed and adopted a proposed platform for the FY 2004 Legislative Session. Many legislative leaders attended the workshop and discussed priorities with the presidents. Mr. Billy Howard, CEO of Howard Industries, also attended the meeting and gave an impressive presentation on his company. The MACJC discussed the format of their regional legislative meetings and agreed to include video clips from business leaders talking about the legislative program.

Dr. Muse stated that mid-point salary increases for community college faculty and staff remains a top priority of the MACJC.

The MACJC received a report from Dr. John Jordan with the Mississippi Department of Education related to the transfer of post-secondary career and technical education to the SBCJC. Dr. Muse reported that this effort received 100% approval from the MACJC.

He stated that the MACJC agreed to delete the word centers and request funding for advanced skills training, inasmuch as some legislators felt the request was for bricks and mortar. The funding would be requested to help provide for high costs programs and would be disbursed to the colleges ½ equally and ½ based on actual reimbursable advanced skills training costs.

Dr. Tommy Davis appointed a committee to work with public relations staff members and SBCJC staff to develop a program that will be utilized during the upcoming Legislative Session.

Dr. Muse stated that the MACJC legislative program would be presented to the SBCJC and to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College Trustees in July for their endorsement.

EDNET Update

Mr. Martin Mangold, Executive Director of EDNET, gave the Board a brief overview and history of EDNET. The public/private partnership utilizes FCC licenses held by educational entities of the state including five held by the SBCJC. Mr. Mangold had a PowerPoint presentation showing the "delivery cells" and towers and discussed the buildout of the system with the Board. When the system is completed it will be able to deliver educational opportunities to the citizens of Mississippi.

Mr. Mangold touched on training that EDNET is delivering for the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH) as part of the Mississippi Health Alert Network.

EDNET's last private partner, WorldCom, is currently in bankruptcy proceedings; however, EDNET has filed a claim with the bankruptcy court valued at \$27,000,000.

EDNET Report

Dr. Evelyn Webb gave the Board a report on the May 19, and June 16, 2003, EDNET Board meetings. She stated that EDNET continues to monitor the status of the WorldCom Bankruptcy proceedings and has filed a claim for capital equipment financial compensation and compensation for damages incurred as a result of EDNET not being able to deliver educational opportunities to Mississippians. A draft settlement proposal from WorldCom was expected but had not been received as of May 17, 2003.

During an April 21, 2003 meeting, EDNET Board of Directors discussed their relationship with WorldCom and expressed a strong desire to settle outstanding contractual issues as soon as possible. They also expressed a strong desire to request a settlement that would transfer ownership of all equipment required by EDNET to broadcast its programming.

EDNET staff has been working with MDH staff to develop a plan for the Health Alert Network (HAN). This initiative directed by the Centers for Disease Control will provide training and emergency information to healthcare professionals at 200 hospitals and health departments statewide.

MDH business services staff and EDNET staff have met to discuss the organizations' business relationships and have requested opinions from the Department of Information and Technology Services (ITS) and the Attorney General's Office related to the ability to work with other agencies without having to respond to bid invitations. EDNET received confirmation from the Attorney General's Office that they could do business on a "government to government" basis.

EDNET will work with licensees, its Washington counsel and its consultants to develop a new RFP representing the utilization of new 3G technology and reflective of the commissions intent to make the most efficient use of the spectrum. Now that the organization is positioned to be much less dependent on public/private partnerships, they have more latitude to decide when and where to enter into contractual agreements. This will allow EDNET to generate more revenue through leasing and to maximize commercial interests in providing wireless broadband service to the educational community.

Workforce Report

Mr. Dexter Holloway reported on the activities of the State Workforce Development Council (SWDC). He stated that the SWDC is continuing to work on strategic planning. SBCJC staff has completed all monitoring for last year and at the present time 72,859 persons have been trained in 5,176 classes for a total of \$8,245,000.

The meeting recessed at 10:25 a.m. and SBCJC staff members joined the group to participate in a farewell reception for Mrs. Sara Fox. Dr. Wayne Stonecypher presented a plaque and resolution of commendation to Mrs. Fox in appreciation of her service as a member of the Board from July 1, 1997 until June 30, 2003.

FY04 Workforce Project Guidelines

Dr. Evelyn Webb presented the FY04 Workforce Project Guidelines for the Board's approval. The guidelines were approved for submission to the Secretary of State's Office to begin the administrative procedures process last month. During the 30-calendar day public comment period, no comments were received and the guidelines are now ready for final approval. Upon a motion by Major General Denver Brackeen and a second by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the Board **voted unanimously** to approve FY04 Workforce Project Guidelines.

Administrative Procedures Overview

Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Frankie White, gave the Board an overview of the new Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law passed during the 2003 Legislative Session. The new law does not take effect until July 1, 2005, with the exception of one section. Ms. White reviewed the current procedures and highlighted areas of the new act. Under the new act there will be model rules of procedure that will be adopted by the Secretary of State for use by as many agencies as possible. Another change will be that each agency will be required to keep a rule-making docket that will be open to public inspection. When a policy or rule is filed, the agency must make an economic impact statement that will reflect the cost to the citizens of the State. Agencies will also be required to issue Declaratory Opinions for citizens that request clarification on a rule or policy. The new public participation section appears to shorten the public comment period to 25 days.

Ms. White pointed out that the one section of the new law that was effective upon passage, required that by October 1, 2003, each agency must file with both chambers of the Mississippi Legislature a report outlining what laws are on the books that might be in conflict with the model procedures that the Secretary of State's Office is going to

promulgate. She will be working with Dr. Larry Day and other SBCJC staff members to complete this filing in a timely fashion.

Legislative Report

Dr. Randall Bradberry stated that he had researched the matter of community college personalized car tags. In conversations with the Mississippi State Tax Commission he determined that as of July 1, 2002, any organization that desires to have a tag bearing their logo must sell 200 tags in advance, pay the Tax Commission \$6,000 up front, and continue to sell 100 tags per year.

Dr. Bradberry gave a brief report on the MACJC Legislative Planning Workshop. He stated that Legislators present voiced their support that funding education up front was a good idea and should be continued.

Dr. Bradberry also updated the Board on conversations with the Mississippi State Department of Education related to the "Occupational Diploma" issued to special education students and how it will be viewed by the colleges for admission purposes.

Finance Report

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Education enhancement Fund (4080 and 4110) and the Budget Contingency Fund (3295) Disbursements in the total amount of \$3,074,713.48 for the month of May and to allow SBCJC staff to disburse the Education Enhancement Funds for June 2003, from funds 4080 and 4110 contingent upon the amount reported by the State Treasurer available to allocate to the colleges (Exhibit C).

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Schedule of Disbursements for FY 2004 (Exhibit D).

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve General Fund 2298 Disbursements for July 2003, in the total amount of \$22,965,446 (Exhibit E).

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve a contract with the Mississippi Authority for Education Television for the out-sourcing of a portion of the CCN operation for FY 2004 in the amount of \$30,000 (Exhibit F).

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve a contract with Copiah-Lincoln Community College for the MELO-MSVCC On-line Library System in the amount of \$35,000 (Exhibit G).

Ms. Young presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the SBCJC and IHL related to monitoring, maintenance, and support of the OC3 connection for Internet services (Exhibit H). No action was required.

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented the Mississippi Public Community and Junior College Support Funding Request for FY 2005 (Exhibit I). Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young

and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2005 Support Funding Request.

Mrs. Gilbert then presented and discussed with the Board the SBCJC Administration Budget Request for FY 2005 (Exhibit J). Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2005 SBCJC Administration Budget Request for FY 2005.

Mrs. Gilbert presented the Public Community and Junior College Capital Improvement Projects Funded in Total or in Part with Senate Bill 2988 Bond Funds (Exhibit L). Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve that the colleges be able to utilize their portion of the \$12,000,000 in bond funds from Senate Bill 2988.

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Major General Denver Brackeen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Public Community and Junior College 5-year Capital Improvement Projects (Exhibit L) and Repair and Renovations Projects (Exhibit M).

Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve an update to the SBCJC Salary Schedule (Exhibit N).

Ms. Young presented Financial Statements for Funds 2291 and 3291 as of May 31, 2003, (Exhibit I) for the Board's information. No action was required.

ABE/GED Report

Mrs. Eloise Richardson announced that the ABE summer conference is scheduled for July 30 and 31, 2003 in Philadelphia, Mississippi. Over 600 individuals have pre-registered for the meeting. Keynote speakers for the event will be two Mississippi GED recipients.

Mrs. Richardson gave an update on cooperative efforts with the National Guard on the CAPS program. The program was designed to aid individuals in passing the ASFAB test for entry into the guard. Individuals from the Alabama National Guard are planning to visit Mississippi to examine how the program works.

At the National GED meeting that will be held in July, Mrs. Richardson will be giving presentations related to the Mississippi On-Line GED Prep Class and the CAPS program.

Mrs. Richardson reported that she had the opportunity to speak at a minorities leadership conference. During that meeting special accommodations available to people taking the GED test were discussed. In an effort to provide information to the Board, Mrs. Richardson distributed pamphlets that included information on accommodations available for people with learning disabilities and/or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorders (Exhibit P).

Lastly, Mrs. Richardson reported that Adult Education teachers have classes at every One-Stop Career Center across the State where services have been requested.

Trustees Meeting July 17-18, 2003

Dr. Randall Bradberry distributed a draft copy of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College Trustees' Association Conference program for the Board's information.

Travel Authorizations

Mr. Walker asked if there were requests for travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. Upon a motion by Mr. Lawrence Warren and a second by Dr. Dorothy Nelson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following travel authorizations:

Major General Denver Brackeen for attending a meeting at Camp Shelby on July 14-15, 2003.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lawrence Warren made a motion, seconded by Major General Denver Brackeen, that the Board consider going into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lawrence Warren made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Sara Fox, that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a performance appraisal for Executive Director, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION


The meeting was closed at 11:40 a.m. Members present were: Mrs. Sara Fox, Dr. Dorothy Nelson, Major General Denver Brackeen, Ms. Veldore Young, Mr. Napoleon Moore, and Mr. Lawrence Warren. Upon a motion by Ms. Veldore Young, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to ask Chairman, Mr. George Walker, to write a letter of commendation to Dr. Wayne Stonecypher indicating his outstanding service to the SBCJC.

Upon a motion by Ms Veldore Young, and a second by Mr. Napoleon Moore, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session at 11:50 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Wayne Stonecypher, Executive Director